

Subject: U.S. "gold-backed dollar", 1917

Graf, William, Dr.

1928

[1459 Herkimer St.]

American Numismatic Society  
B'way. & 156th St  
N.Y.C.

Gentlemen:-

I have in my possession a Two (2) dollar bill with a gold back issued by the U. S. Treasury dept, series of 1917 Bill # H 68779030 A. I have taken this up with the Treasury dept at Wash. D.C. who turned my inquiry over to the U. S. Secret Service Dept. at N.Y. City who asked me to show them the bill which I did. They claim the bill as being O.K. and in their experience the only bill of the amount of Two (2) with a gold back. or in other words the only genuine bill of this nature in existence. Will you be so kind as to tell me the valuation of this bill or something about it if possible. Thanking you in advance

I remain

Respectfully

William Laaf

1459 Herkimer St  
Bklyn. N.Y.

28th January, 1928

Mr. William Graf,  
1459 Herkimer Street,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Your bill, being a freak, has no fixed value; nevertheless, to the right person it would be of interest and command a substantial premium. I really have no idea what you should get for it. Very probably there were four of these notes in existence, as they are printed in sheets of four. I am going to see several collectors interested in this subject next Wednesday, and if you care to send the bill or bring it here, I will take it with me on Wednesday afternoon and let you know what offers I may have received for it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

3d February, 1928

Mr. William Graf,  
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Sir:

As I promised you I would let you know about your bill, on Wednesday I showed it to several men who are familiar with paper money. It was pronounced by them to be a chemically-changed half. In other words, the green on the back is susceptible to a change in color by the use of certain chemicals. One or two had seen the same change made in a \$1.00 bill. In consequence, the note was held to be simply a curiosity without any significance. The best offer I could get for it was double face value, or \$4.00. I am holding the bill here against your reply as to whether I shall send you a cheque for \$4.00 or return the note.

Very truly yours,

Curator